

## **1/21/2011 - WEEK IN REVIEW – FEDERAL COURT ACTIVITY** **United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of Indiana**

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### **Hammond, Indiana**—The United States Attorney's Office announced:

Daryl K. Lyons, 30, of Gary, Indiana, was sentenced by Senior Judge Rudy Lozano to 57 months imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to count three of a superseding indictment charging him with the bank robbery of Harris Bank in Griffith, Indiana on April 20, 2009, and aiding and abetting, in the case *US v Washington et al.* Lemus was ordered to pay \$19,979 in restitution. This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation GRIT Task Force. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas Ratcliffe.

Robert Reillo, 31, of East Chicago, Indiana, was sentenced by Chief Judge Philip Simon to 8 months imprisonment to be followed by 4 months of home detention, and 2 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to count one of an indictment charging him with possession with the intent to distribute marijuana. This case was the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation GRIT Task Force. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Dean Lanter.

Latoya Travis, 38, of Hammond, Indiana, was sentenced by Senior Judge Rudy Lozano to 42 months imprisonment and 3 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to counts one and two of an indictment charging her with making false statements in a loan application, and aggravated identity theft. This case was the result of an investigation by the United States Postal Inspection Service. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Gary Bell.

The specific sentence in each case to be imposed upon conviction will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.

### **INDICTMENT RETURNED IN HAMMOND FEDERAL COURT**

### **Hammond, Indiana**—The United States Attorney's Office announced the following indictments were returned on January 20, 2011:

Laquishea Rogers, 26, of Merrillville, Indiana, was charged in an indictment with three counts of making false statements in a loan application, and two counts of aggravated identity theft. The indictment alleges that Rogers, as a loan processor in a Merrillville mortgage broker business, would prepare a Verification of Deposit Form) VOD (to the borrower's bank for the bank to verify the amount of funds held in accounts for the borrower. The mortgage broker then sent the VOD with the mortgage application package to the lender for review. The lender relied on the completed VOD in making its decision about whether a given borrower qualified for a mortgage loan. The indictment alleges that Rogers made false statements on a VOD by increasing the amount of money stated in the current balance section of a borrower's bank account for the purpose of influencing the action of the lender in its decision to approve the mortgage loan application. It is also alleged that Rogers used the names of others as a part of this process. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Indiana State Police. This case has been assigned to and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Gary Bell.

Daryl Johnson, 37, of East Chicago, Indiana, was charged in an indictment with being a felon in possession of a firearm. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case has been assigned to and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicholas Padilla.

Nathaniel Hamilton, 54, of Gary, Indiana, was charged in a superseding indictment with five counts of distribution of heroin, one count of possession with the intent to distribute heroin, and one additional count of possession of body armor by an individual with a prior conviction for a crime of violence. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the Gary Police Department. This case has been assigned to and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Dean Lanter.

Alfredo Oropeza, 44, of Hammond, Indiana, was charged in a superseding indictment with misuse of a social security number, false statements in a bankruptcy proceeding, transfer of a false identification document, and an additional count of being an illegal alien in possession of a firearm. This superseding indictment also reflects a change in Oropeza's name, as he was originally charged under the name of Sixto Santella Arambula in an indictment returned in November 2011. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Homeland Security Investigations. This case has been assigned to and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jill Trumbull-Harris.

The United States Attorney's Office emphasized that an Indictment is merely an allegation and that all persons charged are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

The specific sentence in each case to be imposed upon conviction will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.

**Fort Wayne, IN—The United States Attorney's Office announced the following activity in federal court:**

Christian Lemus, 29, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, pled guilty before Magistrate Judge Roger Cosbey to count one of an indictment charging him with misuse of a social security number. Sentencing has been set for 4/26/11. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Allen County Sheriff's Department and the Indiana State Police, members of the Identity Theft Task Force, and assisted by the United States Marshals Service. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Lovita Morris King.

Robert Horn, 51, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, pled guilty before Magistrate Judge Roger Cosbey to count one of an indictment charging him with possession with the intent to distribute marijuana. Sentencing has been set for 4/28/11. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Indiana State Police. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert Trgovich.

Andre Hutchins, 39, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, pled guilty before Judge Theresa Springmann to count one of an indictment charging them with conspiracy to distribute cocaine. Sentencing has been set for 4/28/11. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Fort Wayne Police Department, the Allen County Police Department, the Indiana State Police, and the Internal Revenue Service. Also participating were the United States Marshal's Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the IMAGE Drug Task Force. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Anthony Geller and Tina Nommay.

The specific sentence in each case to be imposed upon conviction will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.

**South Bend, IN—The United States Attorney's Office announced:**

Stephen Kronewitter, 49, of South Bend, Indiana, pled guilty before Senior Judge James Moody to count one of an information charging him with bank fraud of Wells Fargo Bank. Sentencing has been set for 4/25/11. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald Schmid.

Rosa Perez, of South Bend, Indiana, pled guilty before Magistrate Judge Christopher Neuchterlein to all counts of an indictment charging her with using a false social security number, using a false permanent resident card, and possession and use of an identification card of another person. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Homeland Security Investigations. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kenneth Hays.

Fred Osborne, 44, of South Bend, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Robert Miller, Jr. to 42 months imprisonment and 2 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to count one of an indictment charging him with being a felon in possession of a firearm. This case was the result of an investigation by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney.

Richard Esparza, 34, of South Bend, Indiana, was sentenced by Judge Robert Miller, Jr. to 37 months imprisonment and 4 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to count one of an indictment charging him with possession with the intention to manufacture and distribute marijuana. This case was the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Indiana State Police. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney William Grimmer.

Stephen Jewett, 63, of Greentown, Indiana, pled guilty before Magistrate Judge Christopher Neuchterlein to all counts of an indictment charging him with the unlawful transport of firearms. Sentencing has been set for 4/21/11. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Frank Schaffer.

Jamie L. Smith, 33, of South Bend, Indiana, pled guilty before Magistrate Judge Christopher Neuchterlein to count one of an indictment charging him with being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm. These charges were filed as the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald Schmid.

The specific sentence in each case to be imposed upon conviction will be determined by the judge after a consideration of federal sentencing statutes and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.